

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

5 A chuck equipment which can hold insulating
substrates is provided. First and second electrodes are
provided to be exposed on the base the surface of which is
insulated. The insulating substrate is placed in contact
with or in close proximity to the surfaces of the first and
second electrodes. Since an electric field having a high
rate of spatial change is established between the first and
10 second electrodes, the substrate is held against the
surface of the chuck equipment by the gradient force.
Since the magnitude of the gradient force depends on that
of the rate of change of the electric field, a voltage may
be applied between the first and second electrodes to
15 establish an electric field of $1.0 \times 10^6 \text{V/m}$ or greater.